

Case 2940

***Riisea* and *riisei* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860 (Cnidaria, Anthozoa): proposed conservation as the correct original spellings of generic and specific names based on the surname Riise**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name *Riisea* for a genus of gorgonian corals, and the specific names of *Carijoa riisei* (originally in *Clavularia*) and *Thalamophyllia riisei* (originally in *Desmophyllum*). These names have been universally accepted for more than a century and are attributed to Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860. However, the names were originally published as *Rusea* and *rusei*; they were based on the supposed personal surname Ruse or Rüse, but in 1864 Duchassaing & Michelotti corrected the names to correspond with the actual surname Riise.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Anthozoa; corals; *Riisea*; *Carijoa riisei*; *Thalamophyllia riisei*.

1. In their important memoir on West Indian corals Duchassaing & Michelotti (1860) established (p. 294 [p. 18 in the separates, also issued in 1860]) the genus *Rusea* for the single new species of gorgonian *R. paniculata*. They stated that the specimen was 'donnée par Mr. Rüse savant Pharmacien à St. Thomas'.

2. In the same memoir Duchassaing & Michelotti established a new species of 'Alcyoniens Sclérodermiques' called *Clavularia Rusei* (p. 310 [p. 34]) and a species of scleractinian coral *Desmophyllum Rusei* (p. 337 [p. 61]); the latter was 'trouvée à St. Thomas par Mr. Ruse, Pharmacien de cette ville'. A species of 'Zoanthinae' called *Gemmaria Rusei* was described on p. 331 [p. 55] with the comment 'Nous la dédions à Mr Rüse, Chimiste-Pharmacien des plus distingués, qui demeure à St.-Thomas et vient de la trouver dans cette île'.

3. In a supplementary memoir Duchassaing & Michelotti (1864) recognized that there had been a mistake about the surname of the 'pharmacien': *Clavularia Rusei* was emended (p. 117 [p. 23 in the separates]) to *C. Riisei* with the comment 'On doit écrire *Riisei*, non *Rusei*'. Similarly, but without comment, *Rusea* was emended (p. 108 [p. 14]) to *Riisea*; *Desmophyllum Rusei* became *D. Riisei* (p. 158 [p. 66]) and *Gemmaria Rusei* became *G. Riisei* (p. 135 [p. 43]). The surname Riise had been misread as Rüse or Ruse.

4. Since there was no internal evidence of error in the original (1860) publication, under Article 33b of the Code the spellings *Riisea* and *riisei* are unjustified

emendations (and junior objective synonyms), and have their own authorship of Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864.

5. The gorgonian generic name has been given as *Riisea* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860 by all workers during the past century; the only exceptions before then were Kölliker (1865, p. 140), who was probably unaware of the previous year's correction and used *Rusea*, and Studer [& Wright] (1887, p. 41), who used *Rüsea*. Examples of authors using *Riisea* are Duchassaing (1870), Wright & Studer (1889), Deichmann (1936), Bayer (1956, 1961, 1981) and those mentioned in para. 7 below; others have been given to the Commission Secretariat.

6. With the exception of Kölliker (1865), the spelling *riisei* has always been used for the specific name of *Clavularia rusei* (also in combination with *Telesto* and *Carijoa*). This spelling has also been used without exception for the specific name of *Desmophyllum rusei* (also in combination with *Thalamophyllia* and *Cyathoceras*). Examples of the use of *riisei* include the works mentioned in paras. 5 and 7. The species *Gemmaria riisei* (originally *G. rusei*) was considered unrecognizable by Verrill (1900, p. 562) and the name (in either spelling) has apparently not been used since; we mention it only for the sake of consistency and do not propose any formal action to conserve it.

7. The species *Riisea paniculata* is a common gorgonian coral in moderate depths throughout the Caribbean area, and is abundantly represented in museum collections. *Carijoa riisei* (Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860) is a common fouling organism in the tropical western Atlantic, and the scleractinian coral *Thalamophyllia riisei* is a solitary coral in deep-reef communities widely distributed from the Straits of Florida to the northeastern coast of South America. They are dealt with in the non-taxonomic or popular literature, such as Lang (1974), Land, Lang & Barnes (1977), Colin (1978), Cairns et al. (1991) and Humann (1993). Since the names *Riisea* and *riisei* have been in universal use this century, always attributed to Duchassaing & Michelotti (1860), a return to their original and mistakenly founded spellings would not be in the interests of stability in nomenclature.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to rule:
 - (a) that the correct original spelling of the generic name *Rusea* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860 is *Riisea*;
 - (b) that the correct original spelling of the specific name *rusei* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860, as published in the binomina *Clavularia rusei* and *Desmophyllum rusei*, is *riisei*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Riisea* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Riisea paniculata* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860 (spelling emended by the ruling in (1)(a) above);
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *riisei* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860, as published in the binomina *Clavularia rusei* and *Desmophyllum rusei* (spelling emended by the ruling in (1)(b) above);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Rusea* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860 (ruled in (1)(a) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *Riisea*);

- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *rusei* Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1860, as published in the binomina *Clavularia rusei* and *Desmophyllum rusei* (ruled in (1)(b) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *riisei*).

Acknowledgements

We thank Dr C.W. Sabrosky and Prof L.B. Holthuis for their advice in the preparation of this application.

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